



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSYCHOLOGIST SENTENCED FOR HEALTH CARE FRAUD

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a clinical psychologist who practiced in the Waynesville area has been sentenced for causing the federally funded Medicare, Medicaid and CHAMPUS health care programs to be billed for services that were never provided.

Forrest H. Braack, 53, of Richland, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith on November 21, 2002, to three months in prison without parole. The court also ordered **Braack** to pay \$29,370 in restitution.

On March 28, 2002, the court ordered **Braack, Forrest H. Braack, Ph.D., P.C.**, and **Forrest Family Institute** to pay \$102,270.90 in damages to the United States, Graves said. The court also **Braack, Forrest H. Braack, Ph.D., P.C.**, and **Forrest Family Institute** to pay a \$20,000 civil penalty.

On November 2, 2001, **Braack** pleaded guilty to two counts of health care fraud and one count of Medicaid program fraud. **Braack** admitted that in 1996 and 1997, he defrauded the Medicare, Medicaid and CHAMPUS (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services) programs by causing them to be billed for services that were never rendered.

Braack admitted, Graves said, that he billed for psychological care provided to a beneficiary who was actually out of the state at the time the service was supposedly provided. In addition, Graves said, from June 23, 1996 through October 5, 1997, **Braack** billed the state's Division of Medical Services of the Department of Social Services for psychological care supposedly provided to Medicaid recipients at home on Sunday, although he did not actually provide the care.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe. It was investigated by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the Fraud Unit of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Arkansas, and the Missouri Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow